

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 128156

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO, US

SUBJECT: FOLLOW UP TO 97TH EXBD

REF: PARIS 13806

FOR NESCO

1. IN THE WAKE OF THE 97TH EXBD WHICH DIRECTOR GENERAL AND THE BOARD CHAIRMAN APPEAR TO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY KEPT FROM EXCESSIVE INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICAL ISSUES, WE NEED TO ADDRESS NEXT STEPS PROMPTLY SO THAT THE MODEST MOMENTUM PRODUCED BY THE BOARD CAN BE SUSTAINED. THIS MESSAGE INTENDED TO SEEK THE PERMDEL'S JUDGMENT ON A SERIES OF ACTIONS DESIGNED FOR THIS PURPOSE. INASMUCH AS THEY ARE BASED IN PART ON STATEMENTS MADE BY ISRAELIS, M'BOW, AND VAN USSEL IN FINAL BOARD MEETING, TEXTS OF THESE STATEMENTS ARE REQUESTED AS ACCOMPANIMENT TO MISSION'S RESPONSE.

2. DIRECTOR GENERAL M-BOW. JUDGING BY THE STRENGTH OF M'BOW'S REACTION TO THE ISRAELI STATEMENT ON MAY 22 AND THE EVIDENT FRUSTRATION ON HIS PART REFLECTED BY NAJMAN, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE TO PRESS UNESCO LEADERSHIP
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TO TAKE INITIATIVES VIS-A-VIS ISRAELIS DESPITE THEIR CLEAR FEELING THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY PURSUED THE ISRAELIS TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT WITHOUT NOTICEABLE RESPONSE. DEPT BELIEVES IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO SCHEDULE AN EARLY CALL ON THE

DIRECTOR GENERAL IN WHICH INITIAL EMPHASIS WOULD BE ON HIS SUCCESSFUL HANDLING OF THE PLO, CHILE AND OTHER POLITICAL ISSUES WHICH COULD HAVE DISTRACTED THE 97TH EXBD AS WELL AS ON PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATIVE INITIATIVES ON WHICH MISSION FEELS HE DESERVES COMMENDATION. THE PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS OF THE CALL, HOWEVER, SHOULD BE THE TWO ISSUES DISCUSSED IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS.

3. HELSINKI MEETING OF EXPERTS. IN RAISING THIS ISSUE WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO REFER TO THE STATEMENT IN THE PLENARY BOARD MEETING BY THE BELGIAN PERMREP VAN USSEL IN EXPLAINING HIS VOTE ON THE EUROPEAN AND ARAB STATES CONFERENCE ON DIPLOMA EQUIVALENCY. VAN USSEL'S PUBLIC SUGGESTION TO THE SECRETARIAT ON MAY 22 TO SEEK WAYS TO INCLUDE ISRAEL IN THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA EQUIVALENCY PROCESS SHOULD HELP TRIGGER CONSULTATIONS BY UNESCO SECRETARIAT TO THIS END. OUR OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO ENCOURAGE THE DG AND HIS SENIOR OFFICIALS TO PURSUE SUCH CONSULTATIONS EVEN IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY ASSURANCE FROM THE ISRAELIS THEY WOULD ATTEND A SMALL MEETING OF THE EXPERTS IN HELSINKI. WE THINK INVITATION TO ISRAEL SHOULD BE ON BASIS OF FULL PARTICIPATION AS LESSER STATUS CAN TOO READILY BE REJECTED. (ALTHOUGH WE WOULD NOT WISH TO SUGGEST IT DG MIGHT BE WELL ADVISED TO PROCEED WITHOUT SEEKING A SPECIFIC REACTION SINCE THE ISRAELIS MIGHT BE RELUCTANT TO GIVE A CLEAR ANSWER IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY ASSURANCE THAT THEY WOULD RECEIVE AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HELSINKI MEETING.) SHOULD THE DIRECTOR GENERAL DEMUR ON GROUNDS THAT TIME CONSUMING CONSULTATIONS FOR A PURPOSE NOT KNOWN TO BE OF INTEREST TO THE ISRAELIS DO NOT APPEAL TO HIM, WE SHOULD REMIND HIM THAT EVERY REASONABLE INITIATIVE WHICH THE UNESCO SECRETARIAT CAN TAKE TOWARDS THE ISRAELIS IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP ACTIVITIES HELPS BUILD ITS CASE AS AN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO OVERCOMING A DECISION AT THE 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE WHICH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL HIMSELF RECOGNIZES TO BE INEQUITABLE.

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4. JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS. DEPT ENCOURAGED BY PRELIMINARY REPORT OF M'BOW/LAMBERT MEETING WITH EFFORTS AT RECONCILIATION, AND POSSIBILITY THAT STEPS LEADING TO ANOTHER VISIT BY LEMAIRE MAY HAVE BEEN SET IN MOTION. US CONTINUES TO FEEL THAT THE SOONER TERMS OF VISIT NEGOTIATED THE BETTER. M'BOW SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED IN THIS DIRECTION. IF HE REFLECTS POSITIVE NATURE OF CONVERSATION SUGGESTED BY REFTTEL, IT COULD BE ARGUED THAT INCIPIENT ISRAELI FLEXIBILITY IN THIS AREA IS AN ADDED REASON TO PRESS FORWARD ON THE ISSUE MENTIONED IN PARA 3 ABOVE.

5. U.S. CONTRIBUTION. WE SHOULD TELL M'BOW OFFICIALLY, IN VIEW OF HIS PROPOSED EARLY JULY APPEAL FOR LOANS,

WHERE WE STAND ON OUR CONTRIBUTION, RECALLING THAT THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS PASSED AN AMENDMENT TO THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1974 WHICH PROHIBITS FURTHER U.S. FUNDS IN SUPPORT OF THE ORGANIZATION UNTIL THE PRESIDENT IS ABLE TO CERTIFY TO THE CONGRESS THAT UNESCO HAS ADOPTED POLICIES WHICH ARE FULLY CONSISTENT WITH ITS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL OBJECTIVES AND HAS TAKEN CONCRETE STEPS TO CORRECT ITS RECENT ACTIONS OF A PRIMARILY POLITICAL CHARACTER.

AS A CONSEQUENCE, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS NOT CURRENTLY IN A POSITION TO PAY ITS ASSESSMENTS FOR 1975-76 AND ARREARAGES FOR 1974 AT THE SCHEDULED TIMES. NEVERTHELESS, THE U.S. CONTINUES TO SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE IMPORTANT WORK OF UNESCO. WE FULLY UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE DG'S SINCERE INTEREST IN WORKING TOGETHER WITH ALL MEMBER STATES TO OVERCOME THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED AT THE 18TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE. WE WARMLY APPROVE OF AND STRONGLY ENCOURAGE HIS FURTHER EFFORTS AND BELIEVE THAT WITH PATIENCE AND PERSISTENCE THEY CAN ACHIEVE ENDS CONSISTENT WITH UNESCO'S PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES.

6. PRIOR TO MAKING THIS FOLLOW-UP CALL ON M'BOW, WOULD APPRECIATE PERMDEL'S COMMENTS ON ITS SUBSTANCE AS WELL AS ITS JUDGMENT AS TO HOW WE MIGHT BEST DEVELOP SUPPORTIVE DEMARCHES BY OTHERS. FOR EXAMPLE, WE ARE PREPARED TO
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INSTRUCT OUR EMBASSIES IN EUROPEAN CAPITALS TO ENCOURAGE SUPPORT FOR VAN USSEL'S MAY 22 PROPOSAL BUT WOULD WELCOME PERMDEL'S, AND INDIRECTLY VAN USSEL'S, JUDGMENT AS TO THE MANNER THIS MIGHT BEST BE DONE. IN SHORT, THE DEPT DESIRES TO MOVE AHEAD PROMPTLY WITH MEASURES WHICH WILL PRODUCE MOVEMENT IN THE DIRECTION DESIRED BY CONGRESS AND NEEDS PERMDEL'S BEST TACTICAL JUDGMENT PROMPTLY ON BEST MEANS FOR DOING SO. INGERSOLL

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